



# **Waihi North Project Rehabilitation and Closure Plan**

January – June 2026


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## APPROVALS

OGC Designation	Name	Designation	Signature	Date
Superintendent Environment	- Mark Burroughs	Mr		November 2025

## REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision No.	Issued for	By
2025	1	New plan for Waihi North Project	Cassie McArthur

# 1 PART A

## 1.1 Background

Conditions of consent for the Waihi North Project require a Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (**RCP**) to be submitted to Hauraki District Council (**HDC**) and Waikato Regional Council (**WRC**) for certification. The conditions of consent related to the RCP are as follows:

*The objective of the Rehabilitation and Closure Plan is to ensure rehabilitation and closure of the Mine Site is undertaken in a manner which achieves the outcomes required by Conditions C64 to C69 such that in the long term:*

- a. *The Mine Site, and any structures on it (that are retained), will remain stable, self- sustaining, and in a rehabilitated state;*
- b. *Any water discharging from the Mine Site, in combination with any other discharges from the Consent Holder's operations, will be of a quality such that it will not adversely affect aquatic life, or other users of the water resource;*
- c. *The Mine Site landscape shall be shaped and planted in accordance with the Proposed Closure Concept Plans contained in **Attachment 2** of the conditions (namely Attachment Fig. A Proposed Closure - WUG Surface Facilities Area and Fig. B Proposed Closure - GOP, NRS and TSF3 or their subsequent certified amendments); and*
- d. *The Proposed Closure Concept Plans shall include the integration of works undertaken through the ELMPs and meet the requirements of the anticipated landscape outcomes contained in the ELMPs (except for temporary mitigation works).*

*The Rehabilitation and Closure Plan must be in two parts:*

- a. *Part A: must describe the programme of rehabilitation (including re-vegetation and backfilling) that is proposed for the Area(s) for the following twelve months, should closure not be proposed during that period and report on any such works undertaken during the previous year;*
- b. *Part B must:*
  - i. *Describe the programme of rehabilitation and closure should closure be programmed to occur within the following 12 months;*
  - ii. *Include an assessment of any residual risk that the Area(s) may pose to the environment and the neighbouring community should closure occur within the following 12 months;*
  - iii. *Include a programme for monitoring of the Area(s) following closure, and list all maintenance works anticipated to be required at the closed Area(s) for the foreseeable future; and*
  - iv. *Include a programme for monitoring of water discharges from the Mine Site WNP and associated trigger levels to ensure best practicable options are being utilised to avoid adverse effects on aquatic life or and other users of the water resources; and*
  - v. *Include an explanation and a process which demonstrates how the Rehabilitation and Closure Plan will integrate with Rehabilitation and Closure Plan(s) authorised to date, inclusive of those which overlap physically, spatially and operationally with the Areas common to this application.*

## 1.2 Report Content and Structure

The consent conditions require the RCP to be divided into two parts, Part A and Part B. Part A summarises the rehabilitation activities that were carried out in the previous year and outlines those rehabilitation activities that are planned for the coming year. Part B outlines the rehabilitation and closure activities that would be needed should closure occur on 1 July 2026, in the event of sudden closure.

As this is the first iteration of the RCP for the WNP and no rehabilitation activities have been undertaken for the project yet, Part A only includes rehabilitation activities planned from January 2026 to 30 June 2026.

### **1.3 Integration with other OceanaGold Waihi Rehabilitation and Closure Plans**

This RCP is prepared to summarise rehabilitation and closure activities associated with the Waihi North Project only and covers the first six months of Waihi North Project activities, to 30 June 2026. From June 2026 onwards, an integrated RCP for all of OGNZL's mining projects will be prepared.

Bond calculations for the first six months of WNP activities have been integrated with OGNZL's existing bond calculations, and are covered in a separate document.

## PART A – Ongoing Rehabilitation Operations

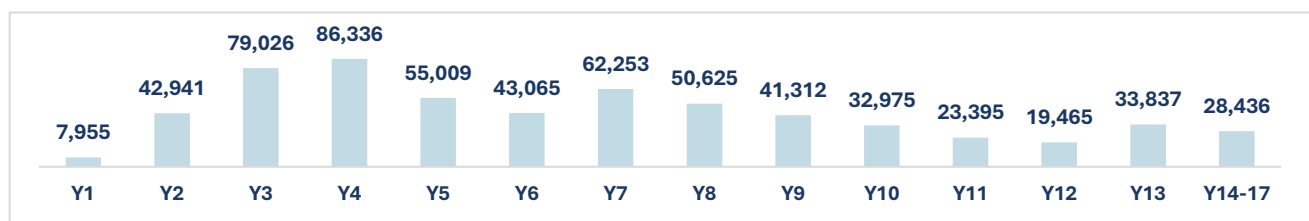
*Part A: must describe the programme of rehabilitation (including re-vegetation and backfilling) that is proposed for the Area(s) for the following twelve months, should closure not be proposed during that period and report on any such works undertaken during the previous year;*

### 2 CLOSURE CONCEPTS AND OVERVIEW

An integrated closure concept plan has been developed for the Waihi North Project, shown in Figures 2 to 4.

Rehabilitation of the Willows area and Northern Rock Stack will comprise reshaping landforms to integrate into the surrounding landscape and returning them to grazing. TSF3 will be partially capped, with a wetland established around the lake.

Significant rehabilitation and offset planting is planned throughout the life of the project. To provide smaller, local nurseries the opportunity to supply plants for the project, planting over the life of the project has been planned to be as consistent as possible while still meeting consent condition requirements. An overview of the estimated planting numbers throughout the life of the project are shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1: Waihi North Project Rehabilitation Planting by Project Year**



**Figure 2: Waihi North Project Closure Concept Plan**





Figure 3: Waihi North Project Closure Concept Plan - Willows SFA Area





Figure 4: Waihi North Closure Concept Plan - Waihi Area



### 3 REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2026

Planned activities associated with WNP in the first half of 2026 will be limited to Wharekirauponga, the Willows Surface Facilities Area, and the existing Water Treatment Plant. Given the limited scope of work in the early months of the project, opportunities for commencing rehabilitation activities will be limited.

The key rehabilitation activities proposed in the first six months of the project include:

- Commencement of offset native planting
- Maitara wetland fencing and restoration

#### 3.1 Native Planting

WNP native planting will commence in the 2026 planting season, starting in May. Preparatory works at the planting areas will start from January 2026 and includes weed control and fencing. Planting planned for 2026 includes three blocks at Willows Road, and screen planting near the proposed Northern Rock Stack (Figure 5 and 6),



Figure 5: 2026 Planned Native Planting - Willows Road Area



**Figure 6: WNP Planned Planting - Northern Rock Stack Area**

The total planting area planned for 2026 is approximately 2.6 hectares and comprises approximately 8000 plants.

WNP consent conditions require plants to be eco-sourced and from an NZPPI accredited nursery (or suitable alternative community nursery). Plant stock will be supplied by local community nurseries, Waihi Native Plants, and Hako Tiaki Whenua Trust Nursery. These nurseries practice eco-sourcing, and will use seeds and material sourced from the Waihi, Hauraki or nearby Coromandel Ecological Districts. The nurseries are both NZPPI registered and working towards certification.

Compliance with these consent conditions will be verified through visits to each nursery with an external consultant in early 2026.

### **3.2 Mataura Wetland Restoration**

Conditions of WNP consents require the Mataura Wetland to be fenced to exclude stock and restored with native plantings. Fencing of the wetland took place in late 2025, with planting scheduled to commence in winter 2026. Restoration will be undertaken in accordance with the Mataura Wetland Monitoring and Restoration Plan which is currently in preparation for certification by WRC.



## PART B – Sudden Closure

### 1 INTRODUCTION

*Part B must:*

- ii. Describe the programme of rehabilitation and closure should closure be programmed to occur within the following 12 months;*
- iii. Include an assessment of any residual risk that the Area(s) may pose to the environment and the neighbouring community should closure occur within the following 12 months;*
- iv. Include a programme for monitoring of the Area(s) following closure, and list all maintenance works anticipated to be required at the closed Area(s) for the foreseeable future; and*
- v. Include a programme for monitoring of water discharges from the Mine Site WNP and associated trigger levels to ensure best practicable options are being utilised to avoid adverse effects on aquatic life or and other users of the water resources; and*
- vi. Include an explanation and a process which demonstrates how the Rehabilitation and Closure Plan will integrate with Rehabilitation and Closure Plan(s) authorised to date, inclusive of those which overlap physically, spatially and operationally with the Areas common to this application.*

The rehabilitation required for the Waihi North Project elements scheduled to progress before the next bond review date of 1 July 2026, are:

1. Ripping of hard-packed areas associated with the Willow Farm surface facilities area (SFA), portal access road, carpark and magazine area;
2. Removal, shaping and recontouring of the Willows Farm collection pond;
3. Placing topsoil, grassing and fertilising on all of the above areas and grassing and fertilising the topsoil stockpile;
4. Some additional project management input at the Willows Farm site to undertake these works;
5. Breaking up of the new WTP element concrete foundation slabs and trucking of the broken material to TSF1A for disposal prior to rehabilitation around the WTP area and of the TSF; and
6. Rehabilitation of drill sites at Wharekirauponga, and removal of all monitoring equipment.

#### 1.1.1 Willows Farm

Within the maximum six-month period between the grant of consents and the start of the next bond period, most of the new works are associated with the preliminary site preparation works at Willows Farm. The extent of these works is conservative, i.e. assumes a greater area of disturbance than may be achieved.

Most of the disturbance is associated with gaining site access, developing a pad on which to place buildings and workshops (the surface facilities area, SFA), constructing the haul road from the SFA to the proposed underground portal, commencing the boxcut for the underground portal, the construction of two water management ponds and establishment of a magazine for the storage of explosives for subsequent use in underground development, and the development of a new helipad to facilitate passenger and equipment flights to Wharekirauponga.

These works involve stripping topsoil and subsoils from all site development areas, the soils from which will be transported to and stored in a soil stockpile to the south of the main site works, prior to undertaking any



more substantial earthworks. Rehabilitation of this area includes the removal of the stored material for rehabilitating the other disturbance areas followed by grassing and a period of maintenance for the planting.

Rehabilitation of the SFA would involve removal and sale of any buildings. The buildings will be portable and will have a resale value in excess of their removal costs, however any return on their sale is ignored. The area would be ripped to break up any compaction of the running course that caps the SFA and that might cause drainage issues, covered with soil and planted in grass.

Similarly, the carpark area at the entrance to the site off Willows Road, the magazine, and the helipad would be ripped prior to receiving soil and grass.

The collection pond is assumed to be decommissioned, which would involve reshaping and contouring the area in and immediately around the pond prior to placing soil and grassing. Inground pipework is assumed to be either left in place or removed if capable of providing a return.

The silt pond is assumed to be left in place as an asset for the continued farming of the site.

For site roading, some ongoing use is assumed for farming purposes. However, the haul road will be far larger than required for this purpose, so the costs provide for ripping, covering with soil and planting all but a 2-3m earth suitable for farm access.

The extent of the disturbance area is shown in Figure 5-1.

### **1.1.2 New WTP Elements**

The only new WTP element assumed to be completed within this bond term is the pouring of a 2,000m<sup>2</sup> concrete slab ready to receive the new ACTIFLO units and associated infrastructure. The slab will be broken up and the pieces transported for disposal either to TSF1A, as part of the tailings perimeter capping, or into the Favona underground prior to the portal sealing and covering.

### **1.1.3 Wharekirauponga Elements**

Ten drill sites have been cleared of vegetation at Wharekirauponga, with an additional six scheduled to be cleared of vegetation during 2026. Rehabilitation in this area will involve capping all drill holes, removing all monitoring equipment, and covering drill sites with stockpiled slash to allow them to regenerate with native vegetation naturally. Ongoing weed control at these sites will be required until native vegetation is dense enough to prevent weed incursions.

### **1.1.4 Staff**

The above closure works will require supervision and management. An additional site manager (to that required for the remainder of the site) is likely to be required for WNP rehabilitation elements. The period of engagement would be expected to be less than one year.

Other staff inputs such as machine operators are provided for in the applicable hourly rate for the machines. Inputs like environmental sampling, testing and reporting are assumed to be adequately covered by the costs associated with remainder of the site work.

### **1.1.5 Ongoing Aftercare**

The above-described work involves surface earthworks only. Other than a small amount of maintenance of the regrassing, none of the above works will attract any long-term aftercare. No ongoing monitoring of water quality is anticipated, as once earthwork areas are stabilised, the risk of erosion and sedimentation will be minimal.

## **2 RESIDUAL RISK**

The conditions of consent require assessment of the residual risks for the closed site, i.e. for the post-closure period. The closure risk cost for other Waihi projects is based on the last (2021) risk assessment. Since that time little has changed on-site that warrants a further review, including the minimal scope of the additional works associated with the Waihi North project.



